

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 MMS-03 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-11 /150 W
----- 078515

P R 061200Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5983

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCEUR VAHINGEN GERMANY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VIRGINIA

RUHQHQA CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0154

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, US, IO

SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION

REFS: A) STATE 27764; B) STATE 19914

1. NBTIFICATION GOMR EFFECTED AS DESCRIBED BELOW 05FEB 1700 HOURS
LOCAL FOLLOWING COORDINATION WITH BRITISH AMB.

2. DCM, WHO HAD BEEN INVITED BY MFA DIRECTOR BILATERAL RELATIONS
RATSIMANDRESY TO CALL FOR DISCUSSION OTHER MATTERS, EXPLAINED BUDGET
REQUEST FOR DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION BEING MADE TO CONGRESS AND USG
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WISHED INFORM GOMR AS WELL AS OTHER INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL STATES.

RATSIMANDRESY, WHO LATER AFFIRMED HE DOES NOT MAKE STATEMENTS WITH WHICH HE BELIEVES HIS FONMIN MIGHT DISAGREE, SHRUGGED OFF MATTER AS "PURELY ANGLO-AMERICAN AFFAIR". "YOU HAVE LOTS OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN WORLD", HE ADDED. HE DID EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR GOMR'S HAVING BEEN INFORMED AND SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE WRITTEN RATIONALE. (DRAFT OF EMBASSY'S FRENCH TRANSLATION OF RATIONALE DRAWN FROM REF B WAS SHOWN HIM WITH PROMISE TO SEND FINISHED COPY 06FEB).

3. DISCUSSION OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION LED RATSIMANDRESY TO EXP- AND ON FONMIN (NAVAL COMMANDER) RATSIRAKA'S PERSONAL ADMIRATION OF US NAVY AND HOW MUCH LATTER HAD APPRECIATED VISIT TO CINCLANT/NORFOLK LAST JUL.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES RATSIMANDRESY'S REACTION REFLECTS FONMIN'S AND GOMR'S PROBABLE DESIRE NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO POLEMIC OVER US NAVAL PRESENCE INDIAN OCEAN IN GENERAL AND DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION IN PARTICULAR. WE EVEN SUSPECT THEY ARE GRATIFIED BY SUCH PRESENCE, AND AS EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REPORTED, GOMR KEPT SILENCE ON RECENT INTRODUCTIONS US NAVAL TASK FORCES IN INDIAN OCEAN. IF, HOWEVER, HUE AND CRY AGAINST DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION RISES AROUND INDIAN OCEAN SHORES, GOMR MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO INSERT PRO FORMA PROTEST.

5. FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF AMERY'S 05FEB DECLARATION TO COMMONS CARRIED TANANARIVE MEDIA 06FEB.
MENDENHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TANANA00154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740251/aaaabvmk.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 27764; B) STATE 19914
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION
TAGS: MARR, UK, US, IO, MA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005